

# CONSUMER PROTECTION



WISCONSIN  
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TRADE AND  
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PROTECTION

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# News

May/June 2003 Edition

Dear Wisconsin Children's Safety Advocates:

In April & May, 2003, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issued a total of **twelve (12) recalls relating to products affecting children**. Attached is a summary of the releases identifying the product, problem and what should be done with the recalled product.

We have found that not all of the recalls are picked up by the news media as they occur. This monthly summary will give you the opportunity to review all of the children's product safety recalls for the past two months.

If you are interested in a complete text of the recall, double click on the hyperlink at the end of the recall description. This will take you to the CPSC website and the actual recall notice. If you have other product safety questions you may call our toll free number at **(800) 422-7128**. You should leave your name, your organization's name and a phone number.

Following is a listing of the 12 "KIDS" recalls by title and identification number:

- ❖ Dollar Tree Stores, Inc. is recalling Plush Bears & Snowman Dolls. #03-103
- ❖ Learning Curve Int'l, Inc. is recalling Lamaze Activity Toys. #03-532
- ❖ Kindermusik Int'l is recalling "Fiddlesticks" Instruments #03-534
- ❖ Playskool is recalling Magic Start Crawl 'n Stand Toys sold only at Wal-Mart. #03-107
- ❖ Dynacraft Industries Inc. is recalling BMX Bicycles. #03-109
- ❖ Battat Incorporated is recalling Drumsticks sold with Toy Drum Sets. #03-110
- ❖ Fisher-Price is recalling Little People® Animal Sounds Farms. #03-111
- ❖ Baby's Dream Furniture Inc. is recalling Cribs for Repair. #03-121
- ❖ Swimways Corp is recalling Pool Dive Sticks. #03-126
- ❖ International Playthings Inc. is recalling Toy Vehicles. #03-127
- ❖ The Step2 Company is recalling Toy Drumsticks. #03-128
- ❖ Starbucks Coffee Co. is recalling Children's Tumbler Cups. #03-134

We hope you find this service of value and that it assists you to:

## "KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE!"

# KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE

**Release Number:** 03-103 Dollar Tree Stores Inc., of Chesapeake, Va., is voluntarily recalling about 407,000 plush bears and 221,000 snowman dolls. The 10-inch plush bear is white and dressed in a hat and jacket in one of the following colors: red, blue, hunter green, pink, purple, light green, light blue and white. The 10-inch snowman doll is dressed in a hat and jacket that are blue and pink. The snowman dolls also have white scarves and a red ball nose. Both the bears and the snowman dolls have a label on their backs that reads, "DIST BY: DOLLAR TREE" and "MADE IN CHINA." The bears and snowman dolls were sold with ear tags that read either, "Christmas House Plush Bear" or "Christmas House Christmas Plush." Dollar Tree, Only One Dollar, Only \$1, Dollar Express, and Dollar Bills stores nationwide sold these toys from June 2002 through March 2003 for about \$1.

**Problem:** Buttons on the jacket of these toys can be pulled off, posing a choking hazard to young children.

**What to do:** Parents and caregivers should take these toys away from young children immediately, and return the toys to the store where purchased for a refund. For more information, call Dollar Tree at (800) 876-8077 anytime, or visit the firm's Web site at [www.dollartree.com](http://www.dollartree.com).



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03103.html>

**Alert Number:** 03-532 Racing Champions Ertl/Learning Curve Int'l., Inc. (RCE/LCI), of Chicago, IL is voluntarily recalling approximately 3,800 children's activity toys. There are two types of activity toys involved in this recall. One toy is a flower shaped toy intended to attach to a stroller, with a green painted metal wire on which plastic beads slide

along. The item is the Lamaze Flower Stroller Wrap (SKU #97222). The other toy is a floor-based toy with a foam stuffed base, a blue painted metal wire on which plastic beads and stuffed animal heads slide along. This item is the Lamaze Soft Bead Buddies (SKU #97325). Each item has a sewn-in label with the Lamaze logo on the front. These toys were sold in March 2003 through specialty and toy stores nationwide for around \$19.99.

**Problem:** The paint on the metal wires of these toys contains excess levels of lead. Lead poisoning is a serious hazard to children and is associated with behavioral problems, learning disabilities, hearing problems and growth retardation.

**What to do:** Consumers should immediately take these toys away from infants and young children. Consumers should contact RCE/LCI for return and replacement instructions at (800) 704-8697 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday or visit the company's web site at [www.learningcurve.com](http://www.learningcurve.com)



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03532.html>

**Alert Number:** 03-534 Kindermusik International, of Browns Summit, N.C., is recalling 32,000 Fiddlestick instruments. Fiddlesticks are wooden rhythm instruments designed for use in the Kindermusik classroom and at home. The recalled instrument is 7" long, 1" in diameter, and is made of wood. It is hollowed out in the middle. Steel balls are inserted into the middle of the instrument to create a shaker sound and the ends are capped with wooden plugs. They are primarily sold as part of a music instructional kit. Kindermusik educators sold the music kits, including the Fiddlesticks, in the United States and Canada from December 2002 through January 2003.

**Problem:** Some of the Fiddlesticks have caps that can become loose, allowing ball bearings to spill from the inside of the sticks. Both the caps and the ball bearings pose a potential choking hazard to young children.

**What to do:** Consumers should stop using the Fiddlesticks immediately and return them to their Kindermusik educator for a free replacement. Kindermusik will replace this product with either re-designed Fiddlesticks or an instrument of comparable value. For more information, contact Kindermusik at (800) 628- 5687 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or e-mail [fiddlesticks@kindermusik.com](mailto:fiddlesticks@kindermusik.com). Consumers can visit the firm's web site at [www.kindermusik.com](http://www.kindermusik.com).



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03534.html>

**Release Number:** 03-107 Playskool, of Pawtucket, R.I., is voluntarily recalling about 300,000 Magic Start Crawl 'n Stand toys. The Playskool® Magic Start Crawl 'n Stand is a multicolor plastic toy with a round base and three arched legs that support an electronic activity center. When crawling babies touch the frame of the toy, music, lights and spinning balls are activated. Babies can pull themselves up on the legs of the toy to play at the activity center. The Playskool logo is imprinted into the plastic base and on top of the activity center. Writing under the activity center includes "ITEM # 06952" and "Made in China." Wal-Mart stores nationwide sold these toys from November 2002 through April 2003 for about \$14.

**Problem:** The toy, which is designed to encourage crawling babies to pull themselves up and stand, can tip over during use and strike falling babies in the head, face or neck, resulting in injuries.

**What to do:** Consumers should take this toy away from children immediately and contact Playskool to get information on how to return the product to receive a free replacement item of similar value. For more information go to Playskool's Web site at [www.playskool.com](http://www.playskool.com) or

call toll-free at (800) 509-9554 anytime.

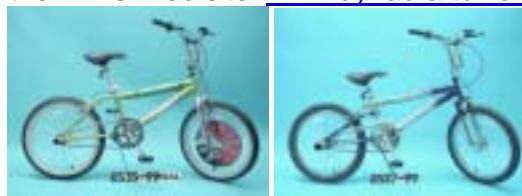


- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03107.html>

**Release Number:** 03-109 Dynacraft Industries Inc., of San Rafael, Calif., is voluntarily recalling about 52,900 BMX bicycles. The recall includes two models of 20-inch BMX bicycles. The Next Voltage-model bicycles are metallic green, have model number 8535-99 and were manufactured between March 2002 and June 2002. The Vertical Street Blade-model bicycles are dark blue and chrome colored, have model number 8527-99 and were manufactured between March 2002 and April 2002. The model name is written on the bicycle frame, and a label on the frame near the crank housing shows the model number and manufacture date. Wal-Mart stores sold the Next Voltage-model bicycles nationwide, including Puerto Rico, from May 2002 through November 2002 for about \$70. Pamida stores sold the Vertical Street Blade-model bicycles nationwide from April 2002 through April 2003 for about \$80.

**Problem:** The stems on these bicycles can loosen during use, causing riders to lose control and fall.

**What to do:** Consumers should stop using these bicycles immediately and contact Dynacraft Industries for information on receiving a replacement stem. For more information, call Dynacraft Industries at (800) 288-1560 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. PT Monday through Friday or visit the firm's Web site: [www.dynacraftbike.com](http://www.dynacraftbike.com).



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03109.html>

**Release Number:** 03-110 Battat Incorporated, of Plattsburgh, NY, is voluntarily recalling about 300,000 sets of toy drumsticks

sold with the Parents Bee Bop Band drum sets. The centipede-shaped drumsticks were sold with the Parents Bee Bop Band drum set. They're about 10-inches long and were sold in either lime green or blue with black stripes. Model numbers involved in this recall are PM9137T2 and PM91372. The model numbers can be found above the UPC code on the packaging. Target, Sam's Club and smaller retailers sold the Parents Bee Bop Band drum sets nationwide from November 2001 through March 2003 for about \$25.

**Problem:** The end piece of the drumstick handle can break off, posing a choking hazard to young children. Additionally, the screw at the end of the drumstick can loosen and detach, posing a choking hazard.

**What to do:** Consumers should immediately take these drumsticks away from young children and contact Battat for a replacement set of drumsticks. For more information, consumers should contact Battat toll-free at (866) 617-9137 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. ET Monday through Friday. Drum sets sold with a sticker that reads, "NEW 2003" is not subject to the recall.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03110.html>

**Release Number:** 03-111 Fisher-Price, of East Aurora, N.Y., is voluntarily recalling about 67,000 Little People® Animal Sounds Farms manufactured from June 17, 2002 through July 31, 2002. The recalled Little People® Animal Sounds Farms are shaped like a barn and make animal sounds when the doors of the cow or horse stall are opened. The recalled toys have a model number of 77973 or 77746 and a six-character manufacturing date code that begins with 168 through 212, followed by the number 2 as the fourth digit. Both the model number and date code can be found on the underside of the green ramp. The Fisher-Price logo appears at the top of the tallest side of the barn in red and white. The recalled toys were manufactured in Mexico. Mass merchants and toy stores

nationwide sold these toys between July 2002 and December 2002 for about \$30.

**Problem:** Two small metal screws that hold the toy "stall doors" in place can come off, posing an aspiration or choking hazard to young children.

**What to do:** Consumers should take the toy away from young children immediately and contact Fisher-Price toll-free at (866) 259-7873 anytime to receive a free repair kit. Consumers also can log on to [www.service.mattel.com](http://www.service.mattel.com) to determine if their product is among the recalled models and to order the free repair kit online.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03111.html>

**Release Number:** 03-121 Baby's Dream Furniture Inc., of Buena Vista, Ga., is voluntarily recalling about 4,600 wooden convertible cribs manufactured from January to August 2001 to repair hinges on the drop gate. The recalled cribs were sold under either the Baby's Dream Furniture label or the National Baby Furniture label in five different models. The five models included in the recall are "Always Crib," "Crib 4 Life," "Legendary Crib," "Set 4 Life," and "Crib-2-College." The wooden cribs are honey, amber or cherry in color. The model names and the date of manufacture appear on a label on the lower inside of the frame. "Made in USA" is also printed on the label. Juvenile furniture and retail stores nationwide sold these cribs for between \$300 and \$400.

**Problem:** The three hinges along the fold-down drop gate can crack or break and allow babies to have their fingers pinched.

**In addition:** An unknown number of Baby's Dream cribs made between 1996 and 2002 may have drop gate trigger latches that are not correctly aligned to fit securely into the strike plate on the crib post. A misaligned latch where the latch trigger does not lock securely can allow the drop gate to open if a child leans on it, and the child could fall out.

**What to do:** Consumers owning these Baby's Dream cribs should call Baby's Dream at (800)



TEL CRIB (835-2742) between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET or visit the firm's web site at [www.babysdream.com](http://www.babysdream.com) to receive a repair kit for hinges and/or latches or for specific instructions for examining their latches. Consumers can also write to Baby's Dream Furniture Inc., at P.O. Box 579, Buena Vista, GA 31803-0579.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03121.html>

**Release Number:** 03-126 Swimways Corp., of Virginia Beach, Va., is voluntarily recalling about 25,000 packages of dive sticks (each package contains four dive sticks), which fail to meet the commission's safety requirements. These are "Swim Ways Deluxe Dive Buddies" weighted dive sticks. The dive sticks are soft plastic tubes that have character heads and feet. The characters are a yellow seahorse, a green and purple walrus, a red and blue underwater diver, and a blue shark. The dive sticks are about 7.5 inches long and an inch in diameter. When dropped into water, they sink to the bottom of a pool and stand upright so children can swim or dive down and retrieve them. There is no writing on the products except numbers located on the backs that represent the dive stick's point value. The cardboard-backed packaging shows a photo of fish and coral in an underwater scene. Writing on the packaging includes "Swim Ways," "Deluxe Dive Buddies" and "Made in China." Specialty pool stores nationwide sold these dive sticks from December 2002 through May 2003 for about \$6.

**Problem:** Children can fall or land on these dive sticks in shallow water and may suffer impalement injuries.

**What to do:** Consumers should take these dive sticks away from children immediately and contact Swimways for information on receiving a refund or free replacement product. For more information, contact Swimways at (800) 889-7946 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at [www.Swimways.com](http://www.Swimways.com). Consumers also can write

to Swimways Corp., 5816 Ward Court, Virginia Beach, VA 23455.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03126.html>

**Release Number:** 03-127 International Playthings Inc. of Parsippany, NJ is voluntarily recalling about 126,000 units of toy vehicles. The Viking Mini Chubbies are toy wagons, tractors, helicopters, cars, airplanes, and jeeps. The toys measure about 3-inches long and were sold in red, blue and yellow. Model numbers are printed on the bottom of the toy. Models included in the recall are AW01119, AW41111, AW61005 and AW81119. The toys were manufactured in Thailand. Specialty toy stores nationwide sold these toys from April 2002 through March 2003 for about \$1.

**Problem:** Small parts on the vehicles can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children.

**What to do:** Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately. Consumers should contact the company for information on receiving a replacement toy. International Playthings toll-free at (800) 445-8347 anytime or visit the Web site [www.intplay.com/recall.htm](http://www.intplay.com/recall.htm)



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03127.html>

**Release Number:** 03-128 The Step2 Company of Streetsboro, Ohio is voluntarily recalling about 800 toy drumsticks. The drumsticks were sold with the Step2 Toddle Tunes Big Band Drum set, models 7135B2 and 7135KR. The drum sets are blue and yellow with

music decals attached to the front. The word "Step2" is imprinted across the front of the drum set. The yellow and blue drumsticks are about 9-inches long. They were manufactured in Korea. Toy stores and online retailers sold the drum sets nationwide from February 2002 through April 2003 for about \$30.

**Problem:** The tip of the drumstick can break off, posing a choking hazard to young children.

**What to do:** Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately. Contact Step2 to receive a replacement set of drumsticks. The Step2 Company at (800) 347-8372 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visit the firm's Web site at [www.step2.com](http://www.step2.com)



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03128.html>

**Release Number:** 03-134 Starbucks Coffee Co., of Seattle, Wash., is voluntarily recalling approximately 38,000 plastic Bearista™ Bear tumbler cups. The tumbler cup is constructed of translucent plastic in the shape of a bear with the words "Bearista™ Bear" printed on the front. The cup was sold in both blue and green. The cup has a screw-on lid in the shape of a bear's head, from which a soft, flexible straw protrudes. The product's lid can rotate such that the straw attachment can be bent (closed) to prevent liquid from leaking out. Starbucks stores in the United States, Canada and Taiwan sold the recalled cups from April 2003 through May 2003 for approximately \$7 (U.S.).

**Problem:** When the flexible straw on the cups is chewed, small pieces of plastic can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children.

**What to do:** Parents and caregivers should stop young children from using these cups immediately, and return the cups to any Starbucks location for a refund and a free beverage of any size. For more information, consumers should contact Starbucks Customer Relations at (800) 235-2883 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET any day, or visit the company's Web site at Starbucks.com or

Starbuckscollectibles.com for more information.-

-> Consumers may also write to Starbucks Coffee Company at Customer Relations, Starbucks Coffee Company, mailstop S-RC1, P.O. Box 3717, Seattle, WA 98124-3717.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03134.html>

If you would like to sign up for the Keep Your Kids Safe newsletter, please visit our webpage at <http://datcp.state.wi.us> or contact Michelle Reinen at (608) 224-4988 or [michelle.reinen@datcp.state.wi.us](mailto:michelle.reinen@datcp.state.wi.us). Please be sure to provide your name, telephone number and e-mail address.

If you have any questions or want to file a complaint regarding an unsafe product, contact:

WI Bureau of Consumer Protection,  
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